



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mount Rainier National Park

Winter Trail Report – 12/3/14

Please note the date for reports and recognize changes may have occurred since report. If a trail or area does not have a specific report, conditions are unknown as of the date of this summary. Check the Northwest Avalanche Center Report and the Mount Rainier Recreational Weather Report before heading out. Avalanche assessment and route-finding skills are needed for many winter activities in the park this time of year. Call the **Longmire Information Center** between 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM if you have questions (360-569-6575).

Weather Report Link: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sew/get.php?wfo=sew&pil=REC&sid=SEW>

Avalanche Report Link: <http://nwac.us/avalanche-forecast/current/cascade-west-south/>

Southwest Summary Report, 12/3/14: Snow can be found at all elevations in the park. Icy conditions persist on roads, sidewalks and parking lots. A variety of conditions can be found on the trails; the more use a trail gets the more packed and icy the snow has become.

Longmire Area Trails, 12/3/14: In the open areas 1-2 inches of snow exist, under the limbs of our old growth forests bare patches can be found. Expect melting over the next week with the freeze level rising.

The foot bridge over the Nisqually to Carter Falls (near Cougar Rock campground) is washed out. The bridge on the Kautz creek trail is in. No reports on other bridges in the area.


Most trails have a few downed trees; the majority is between Longmire and Cougar Rock on the Wonderland trail.

Navigation should not currently be an issue with any trails found on the Longmire Winter Trails PDF.

<http://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/upload/Longmire-Winter-Trails-Dec13.pdf>

Paradise Area Trails, 12/3/14: Paradise 5400' the previous snowfall has consolidated to less than 2 foot of depth. Icy conditions have developed again on the trails. Panorama Point has once again taken the lead for icy treachery, where crampons and ice axes would be highly recommended. Commonly used routes (west Skyline and Nisqually Vista trails in the summer) have received enough use that snowshoes are not necessary for loft but very helpful for traction. New snow in the forecast will likely change this soon.

See the [Paradise Autumn Recreation PDF](#) for suggested routes and avalanche terrain in the Paradise area. Remember navigation is your responsibility and do not trust tracks in the snow.



A minimum of five feet of snow is recommended before skiing and snowboarding to help protect the meadows. To avoid desiccation, drying out of plants often caused by off trail travel, please avoid any exposed vegetation.

East Side Area Update, 12/3/14: SR 123 and 410 are closed at the park boundary. Silver Creek sno-park is not up and running yet, but parking lot is accessible.

No report on trail conditions, use the southwest area conditions as an estimate.

There is self-registration set up at the north boundary arch bulletin board for wilderness backpacking. There is also self-registration set up at the White River Ranger Station for backpacking **and climbing**. (Climbers are directed to fill out a climbing card and to pay the fee utilizing a pre-addressed envelope when they return from their climb).

Carbon/Mowich Area Update 12/3/14:

Call (360) 829-9639 for the **Carbon River Ranch Ranger Station** hours. There is self-registration for climbing and backpacking set up outside when the Carbon River Ranch Ranger Station is not staffed.

There is light snow on the ground near the Carbon River entrance, the warming trend and rain will likely melt this snow. There is snow and ice on the road to Mowich outside of the park boundary with approximately 1.5' of snow at Mowich Lake itself.

The lower elevations trails can be quite icy, traction devices recommended but without enough depth for snowshoes yet. The old road bed to Ispat Creek campground has sections washed out with the remainder being very muddy.

Recent flooding has created numerous hazards and difficulties in the Carbon River/Mowich area.

Bridges are washed out to Chenius Falls, over the Mowich Rivers on the Wonderland and on the approach to Carbon Glacier on the Wonderland.

The trail to Carbon Glacier also had sections wash out and other areas blocked by landslides. With bridges and sections of trail washed out, sections of trail blocked by landslide and icy conditions elsewhere this trip would be very hazardous. For any experience back-country user who still is considering this hike please use extreme caution.
